

Appendix A

Acronyms

The use of acronyms is a common practice in today's world. The government is not alone. Every business, society, and profession seems to have their own set to use. The language used in district activities is often confusing to those unfamiliar with it. Following is a list of common acronyms you may run across in everyday district business.

AOA - Annual Operating Agreement. Document that describes the work and operational agreement between an individual conservation district and their corresponding NRCS field office.

ASC - Assistant State Conservationist. The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) person that the District (DC) Conservationist reports to. A middle management position between the DC and the state office of NRCS.

AFO - Animal Feeding Operations. Agricultural enterprises where animals are kept and raised in confinement.

CAFO - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. Those animal feeding operations with 1,000 or more animal feeding units.

CD - Conservation District

CES (now MSUE) - Cooperative Extension Service. Term formerly used to describe Michigan State University Extension

CMI - Clean Michigan Initiative. Bond initiative passed to fund various environmental programs in the State of Michigan

CNMP - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

CREP - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CRP - Conservation Reserve Program

CWA - Cooperative Working Agreement. Document that defines the working relationship between USDA NRCS, the Michigan Conservation Districts and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

DC - District Conservationist. (USDA NRCS) person who has overall supervision of a NRCS service unit.

DEQ or MDEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

DNR or MDNR - Michigan Department of Natural Resources

ESD - Environmental Stewardship Division. Part of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) that has administrative oversight of Conservation District activities.

EBI - Environmental Benefits Index. Criteria used to determine enrollment of land in CRP.

EI - Erosion Index

EPA or USEPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program. This is a federal program that provides funds on a competitive basis for cost-share. This was part of the 1996 Farm Bill.

FAIRAct - Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act. Better known as the 1996 Farm Bill.

FCA - Farm Credit Agency

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Act. Federal agency that provides disaster relief.

FIP - Forestry Incentives Program. Federal program providing assistance for forestry.

FOCS - Field Office Computing System. NRCS database used for documenting conservation planning efforts

FOIA - Freedom of Information Act

FSA - USDA Farm Services Agency

GIS - Geographic Information Systems

GPS - Global Positioning System

HEL - Highly Erodible Land

ICM - Integrated Crop Management

IPM - Integrated Pest Management

LAN/WAN - Local Area Network / Wide Area Network. Information transfer and management systems involving phones, internet, etc., used in USDA Service Centers.

MACD - Michigan Association of Conservation Districts. A non-profit organization that supports the work of districts throughout the state.

MACDE - Michigan Association of Conservation District Employees.

MDA - Michigan Department of Agriculture.

MDEQ or DEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

MDNR or DNR - Michigan Department of Natural Resources

MDOT - Michigan Department of Transportation

MGSP - Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program. A state program providing technical assistance and cost-share to farmers and landowners to identify and decrease risk to groundwater from pesticide and nitrogen fertilizer contamination. Administered through MDA.

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding. Agreements between agencies on how they will support each other's activities.

MSUE - Michigan State University Extension

NACD - National Association of Conservation Districts. A non-profit organization that supports the work of districts nationwide.

NASCA - National Association of State Conservation Agencies. Made up of state agencies that have administrative oversight of their respective state conservation districts. MDA is the state conservation agency in Michigan.

NRCS - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

OMB - U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Federal agency that has regulatory authority on budget and management and budget issues.

PL-566 - Federal NRCS program that focuses on small watersheds and projects that provide flood control.

PRMS - Performance and Results Measurement System. Internet based reporting system developed by USDA NRCS.

RC - Resource Conservationist. (USDA NRCS) person assigned to the district office. The person who is responsible for NRCS programs in the local NRCS field office

RC&D - Resource Conservation and Development. Non-profit organizations staffed by NRCS employees. RC&Ds help communities improve their economies and quality of life through wise use and development of natural resources.

RUSLE - Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation. A formula used to determine the amount of erosion from a given field under varying circumstances. Replaces USLE or the Universal Soil Loss Equation.

SIP - Stewardship Incentives Program. Federal program providing assistance for forestry programs.

319 - A federal EPA program that provides funds for water quality programs. This program is administered by MDEQ.

USDA - United States Department of Agriculture

USDOI - United State Department of the Interior

USF&WS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Within the United States Department of the Interior (DOI)

USFS - United States Forest Service

USGS - United States Geological Survey

WHIP - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. A program or the 1996 Farm Bill to help improve wildlife habitat.

WRP - Wetlands Reserve Program. Federal program to improve wetlands.